

### REMARKS

Claims 2, 5-17, 20-23, 26-29, 32-35, 37, and 39-82 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3-4, 18-19, 24-25, 30-31, 36, 38, and 83-84 are pending.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Hudson for the helpful comments during the courteous discussion of the present application held on January 28, 2003, and for indicating that the remarks below, combined with the above amendment, would further favorable prosecution of the present application.

The rejections of Claims 2, 9, 40, 41, 92, 93, and 94 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

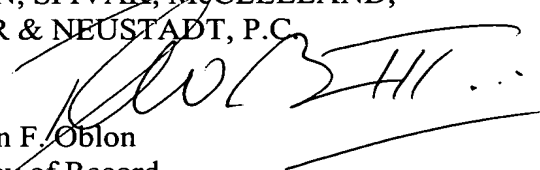
The rejections of Claim 6-10 and 80-94 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the cancellation of these

It should be noted that the Office has failed to reject or object to the remaining claims.

Further, Applicants thank Examiner Hutson for indicating that the remaining claims are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable indication of the same is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Thomas W. Barnes III, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 52,595



**22850**

Tel.: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
NFO:TWB\cja